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UNCLAS STATE 036889

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [HUMAN](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [CH](#) [SU](#) [DARFR](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE: URGING TO CHINA TO NOT OPPOSE ON EU
RESOLUTION SUDAN IN THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

¶1. Department requests that the Embassy urge China to support, or at least not to oppose, a European Union-sponsored Sudan resolution at the UN Human Rights Council. The Embassy is also requested to voice U.S. opposition to an Algerian-sponsored resolution text that would protect Sudan from criticism on Darfur. (Note: Essentially, we are asking China to abstain on both, if China cannot support the EU resolution. End Note.) The Chinese delegation in Geneva has tended to be less supportive of Western positions on Darfur than China's delegation in New York or the MFA generally. However, we believe that China could be encouraged to abstain on both resolutions. For this to happen, however, the Chinese delegation in Geneva would have to receive clear instructions from the MFA. The vote on the European-backed resolution could occur as soon as Friday, March 23, though it may also be delayed until next week. China's reaction to this demarche may be complicated by the fact that China is a member of the HRC and the U.S. is not. If this issue is raised, Embassy should respond that while the USG has reservations about the HRC and has chosen not to run for membership in it, the body clearly has a responsibility to address the most pressing human rights situation in the world. If Chinese say anything to suggest a trade of Chinese support or abstention of the resolutions in return for U.S. concessions on related votes in the Security Council, Embassy should emphasize that the HRC vote should be made on its merits, not as part of a package deal. Our primary concern in Darfur remains the immediate deployment of an AU/UN hybrid force, as agreed upon in Addis Ababa in November. Given time differences with posts and time needed for capitals to relay instructions to Geneva, time is of the essence. Department deeply appreciates Embassy's swift action. End Background.

OBJECTIVES

¶2. Department instructs Embassy to pursue the following objectives:

- Urge China to support -- or at a minimum abstain -- in the vote on a European Union-sponsored resolution on Sudan at the UN Human Rights Council, and not to support the competing Algerian-sponsored resolution that seeks to protect Sudan from criticism on Darfur;
- Urge China to immediately convey clear instructions to its delegation in Geneva to this effect;

(If Chinese officials raise a trade-off of their abstention for U.S. concessions in the Security Council):

-- Emphasize that we welcome China's willingness to be cooperative in Geneva, and also call on them to support ongoing Council efforts in New York to address the crisis in Darfur and advance the implementation of the understanding reached at Addis Ababa in November, concluded with China's help, leading to the deployment of an AU/UN hybrid PKO under clear UN command and control.

REPORTING DEADLINE

13. Embassy should report results of efforts as soon as possible to DRL/MLGA - Julieta Valls Noyes, IO/RHS - Doug Rohn, EAP/CM - Mike Goldman, and Mission Geneva - Velia de Pirro.
RICE